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	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	09/842,025	BU ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Douglas B. Blair	2142	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *the Appeal Brief filed on 7/18/2007*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1, 2, 5-22, 24-28, and 33-44*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None   of the:

      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

ANDREW CALDWELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Andrew Foy (Reg. No. 57,333) on 1/16/2008.

The claims of the application have been amended as follows on the next page:

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of accessing electronic data from a communications system, the method comprising:

establishing a connection between a client system and a host system using a first account of a user, the first account of the user being maintained by the host system;

determining if one or more additional accounts maintained by the host system are associated with the user;

initiating a first communication session between the client system and the host system over the connection, the first communication session being associated with the first account of the user;

based on a determination that one or more additional accounts maintained by the host system are associated with the user, automatically initiating, over the same connection between the client system and the host system, one or more additional communication sessions between the client system and the host system, the one or more additional communication sessions being associated with the one or more additional accounts associated with the user; [[and]]

transmitting, to the host system, additional account information for the one or more additional accounts maintained by the host system; and

after transmitting the additional account information for the one or more additional accounts to the host system, enabling, for each of the one or more additional accounts, ~~enabling~~ a transfer of electronic data associated with each of the one or more additional accounts to a corresponding designated destination in response to automatically initiating the one or more additional communication sessions between the client system and the host system.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising accessing electronic data associated with the first account of the user.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein enabling the transfer of electronic data comprises retrieving e-mail.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein enabling the transfer of electronic data comprises sending e-mail.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein enabling the transfer of electronic data comprises downloading one or more files.

8 (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein enabling the transfer of electronic data comprises retrieving messages posted on a message board.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein enabling the transfer of electronic data comprises posting messages to a message board.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the first account and the one or more additional accounts comprise different screen names.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein automatically initiating one or more additional communication sessions comprises automatically switching between the different screen names.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising setting preferences for initiating the first communication session.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein setting preferences comprises scheduling a time to initiate the first communication session.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising setting preferences for initiating the one or more additional communication sessions.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein setting preferences comprises scheduling a time to automatically initiate the one or more additional communications session.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising setting different preferences for initiating the first communication session and for initiating the one or more additional communication sessions.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first communication session is initiated automatically.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising running the first communication session and the one or more additional communication sessions in parallel.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user comprises a single member of an online service.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user comprises multiple members of the online service.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein the multiple members are related.

22. (Currently amended) A computer program product ~~tangibly~~ embodied in a <u>tangible</u> computer-readable <u>storage</u> medium, the computer program product including instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to:

establish a connection between a client system and a host system using a first account of a user, the first account of the user being maintained by the host system;

determine if one or more additional accounts maintained by the host system are associated with the user;

initiate a first communication session between the client system and the host system over the connection, the first communication session being associated with the first account of the user;

based on a determination that one or more additional accounts maintained by the host system are associated with the user, automatically initiate, over the same connection between the

client system and to the host system, one or more additional communication sessions between the client system and the host system, the one or more additional communication sessions being associated with the one or more additional accounts associated with the user; [[and]]

transmit, to the host system, additional account information for the one or more additional accounts maintained by the host system; and

for each of the one or more additional accounts, enable a transfer of electronic data associated with each of the one or more additional accounts to a corresponding designated destination in response to automatically initiating the one or more additional communication sessions between the client system and the host system. system and after transmitting additional account information for the one or more additional accounts to the host system.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 22 further comprising instructions that, when executed, cause the computer to:
   access e-mail data.

25. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 22 further comprising instructions that, when executed, cause the computer to:
   download one or more files.

26. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 22 wherein the first account and the one or more additional accounts comprise different screen names.

27. (Previously presented) A communications apparatus for accessing electronic data from a communications system, the apparatus being configured to:
   establish a connection between a client system and a host system using a first account of a user, the first account of the user being maintained by the host system;
   determine if one or more additional accounts maintained by the host system are associated with the user;

initiate a first communication session between the client system and the host system over the connection, the first communication session being associated with the first account of the user;

based on a determination that one or more additional accounts maintained by the host system are associated with the user, automatically initiate, over the same connection between the client system and the host system, one or more additional communication sessions between the client system and the host system, the one or more additional communication sessions being associated with the one or more additional accounts associated with the user; and

transmit, to the host system, additional account information for the one or more additional accounts maintained by the host system; and

for each of the one or more additional accounts, enable a transfer of electronic data associated with each of the one or more additional accounts to a designated destination in response to automatically initiating the one or more additional communication sessions between the client system and the host system- system and after transmitting additional account information for the one or more additional accounts to the host system.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein automatically initiating comprises automatically initiating, over the same connection to the host system, the one or more additional communication sessions associated with the one or more additional accounts in response to a preference set by the user prior to initiation of the one or more additional communication sessions.

29-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein establishing the connection between a the client system and the host system and initiating a first communication session between the client system and the host system over the connection occur automatically and without user manipulation.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein automatically initiating, over the same connection between the client system and the host system, one or more additional

communication sessions between the client system and the host system, occurs automatically and without user manipulation.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising automatically synchronizing data related to the first account or the one or more additional accounts wherein, prior to synchronization, the data related to the first account or the one or more additional accounts was stored on only one of the client system or the host system.

36. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35 wherein automatically synchronizing data comprises one or more of sending an e-mail message written using the client system when the client system was not connected to the host system, retrieving from the host system an unread e-mail message, posting a message to a newsgroup or message board that was written using the client system when the client system was not connected to the host system, and retrieving from the host system a message to a newsgroup or message board.

37. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35 wherein automatically synchronizing data comprises automatically synchronizing data related to each of several accounts associated with the user.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the host system is a network access service provider that provides network access service to enable the user to access systems other than the host system,
the first account corresponds to a first e-mail account of the user provided by the host system, and
one of the one or more additional accounts corresponds to an additional e-mail account provided by the host system.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the host system is a network access service provider that provides network access service to enable the user to access systems other than the host system,

the first account corresponds to a first screen name for an instant messaging service provided by the host system, and

one of the one or more additional accounts corresponds to an additional screen name for the instant messaging service provided by the host system.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the host system is a network access service provider that provides network access service to enable the user to access systems other than the host system,

one of the first account or at least one of the one or more additional accounts corresponds to a screen name for an instant messaging service provided by the host system, and

other of the first account or the at least one of the one or more additional accounts correspond to an e-mail account provided by the host system.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein automatically initiating, over the same connection between the client system and the host system, one or more additional communication sessions between the client system and the host system comprises automatically initiating at least one of the one or more additional communication sessions when the user is not present at the client system.

42. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein enabling, for each of the one or more additional accounts, a transfer of electronic data associated with each of the one or more additional accounts to a corresponding designated destination includes enabling, for each of the one or more additional accounts, a transfer of electronic data associated with each of the one or more additional accounts to a corresponding designated destination based on verification of the additional account information for each of the one or more additional accounts maintained by the host system.

43. (New) The computer program product of claim 22 wherein the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to enable, for each of the one or more additional accounts, a transfer of electronic data associated with each of the one or more additional accounts to a corresponding designated destination include instructions that, when executed, cause a computer

to enable, for each of the one or more additional accounts, a transfer of electronic data associated with each of the one or more additional accounts to a corresponding designated destination based on verification of the additional account information for each of the one or more additional accounts maintained by the host system

44. (New) The communications apparatus of claim 27 wherein the apparatus is configured to enable, for each of the one or more additional accounts, a transfer of electronic data associated with each of the one or more additional accounts to a designated destination based on verification of the additional account information for each of the one or more additional accounts maintained by the host system.

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Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record was not found to teach or suggest the transmission of additional account information for additional accounts after a session with one account has been established, in order to create additional sessions between the client system and the host system, as claimed in the context of the applicant's independent claims. U.S. Patent Number 6,757,706 to Dong et al, describes a method of obtaining information for stored off-line requests when a client is determined to be on-line however Dong does only discloses such a process for one account and not multiple accounts as claimed. U.S. Patent Numbers 6,954,782 and 6,457,879 to Thurlow et al., provide similar teachings to those of Dong but they, too, do not suggest that sessions can be established for additional accounts. U.S. Patent Number 6,876,974 to Marsh et al. describes, generally storing off-line requests and also discusses multiple accounts being associated with a client (col. 16, lines 20-33). Marsh however does not teach the claimed process of initiating additional sessions as claimed by the applicant. Finally, U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2002/0091774 by Inamura et al. teaches a method of performing stored off-line communications for a number of users (See Figure 7 and paragraph 56) but it does not qualify as prior art nor does it teach the amended limitations of the claims added by this Examiner's Amendment.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas B. Blair whose telephone number is (571) 272-3893. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Caldwell can be reached on (571) 272-3868. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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